

**Amendments to Specification**

Page 191, delete the ABSTRACT in its entirety and replace therewith the following:

Featured are a front-illuminating device including a light source and first and second light-directing bodies. The first light-directing body is disposed in front of an object to be illuminated and has a first light-releasing surface from which light is released to the object to be illuminated and a second light-releasing surface, placed face to face with the first light-releasing surface, for releasing light reflected from the object to be illuminated. The second light-releasing surface also is formed into a step shape and includes slanting portions that reflect light mainly from the light source toward the first light-releasing surface. The second light-directing body is disposed between the first light-directing body and the object to be illuminated and is configured and arranged so a distance from each of the slanting portions to the surface of the second light-directing body second surface is essentially uniform.